

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated August 9, 2005, the Examiner has objected to the specification because of informalities. Claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,341,350 (Miyahara) and U.S. Patent No. 6,510,233 (Nakano). Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19 and 23 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22 and 24-26 without disclaimer. Moreover, Applicants have amended claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19 and 23 to further clarify the invention. Claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19 and 23 remain pending in the present application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449 on January 4, 2005. However, Applicant has not received an initialed Form PTO-1449 from the Examiner acknowledging his consideration of the references. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner include an initialed Form PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office communication. A copy of the Form PTO-1449 filed on January 4, 2005 is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the disclosure as failing to show support for the limitation, "said location of said area G thus located repeatedly being independent of

said digital watermark information". In order to advance prosecution, Applicants deleted this limitation from the claims. In the Office Action mailed on August 9, 2005, the Examiner relies upon Nakano to teach this feature. As such, it does not appear that the Examiner relied upon this feature, i.e., where the location of the area G is independent of the digital watermark information, as a reason for allowance. Therefore, Applicant believe claims 3, 7, 11, 15, 19, and 23 are allowable.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Mattingly, Stanger, Malur & Brundidge, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (referencing attorney docket no. 566.38616X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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